

Thomas de Haven Roberts

Address ILLC, Faculty of Science
University of Amsterdam
P.O. Box 94242
1090 GE Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Web <https://rotom.github.io>
Email t.roberts@uva.nl
Citizenship United States

Research Interests

Broad: Formal semantics, pragmatics, syntax-semantics interface

Narrow: Attitudes, clausal embedding, questions, speech acts, lexical semantics, discourse particles, Estonian, internet linguistics

Employment

2021-present **Postdoctoral Researcher** (*Onderzoeker*), Universiteit van Amsterdam,
Institute for Logic, Language and Computation, the Netherlands
Project: ‘Natural Language Interpretation as Abductive Model Generation’
PI: Professor Reinhard Muskens

Education

2021 **Ph.D., Linguistics**, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA
Dissertation: *How to make believe: Inquisitiveness, veridicality, and evidentiality in belief reports*
Committee: Pranav Anand (chair), Donka Farkas, Jim McCloskey, Floris Roelofsen

2017 **M.A., Linguistics**, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA

2014 **S.B., Linguistics and Philosophy**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

Publications

* = *equal contribution*

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

To appear Nguyen, A., **T. Roberts**, P. Anand, & J. Fox Tree. Look, Dude: How Hyperpartisan and Nonpartisan Writing Differ in Online Communities. To appear in *Discourse & Society*

MANUSCRIPTS

- Under revision Roberts, T. How to build a question-embedder: The case of *can't believe*. Invited submission for Wataru Uegaki & Floris Roelofsen (eds.), *The interface between logic and grammar in the domain of clausal complementation* (Special issue of *Glossa*; invited submission).
- Under revision Roberts, T. Inquisitive responsive predicates and the logic of contemplation. Under revision for *Journal of Semantics*.
- In preparation Kroll, M.* & **T. Roberts***. Bare adverbial responses and the typology of polarity ellipsis.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS (PEER-REVIEWED ABSTRACTS)

- 2021 Roberts, T. Argument saturation and nominal complements. In *Proceedings of North East Linguistics Society 51*.
- 2019 Roberts, T. I can't believe it's not lexical: Deriving distributed veridicality. In K. Blake, F. Davis, K. Lamp, & J. Rhyne (eds.), *Proceedings of SALT 29*, 665-685.
- 2019 M. Kroll* & **T. Roberts***. Stating the obvious: *Of course* as a focus-sensitive marker of uncontroversiality. In M.T. Espinal, E. Castroviejo, M. Leonetti, L. McNally, C. Real-Puigdollers (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 23*, 37-53.
- 2018 Roberts, T. The selectional restrictions of responsive predicates in Estonian. In S. Solt & U. Sauerland (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 22*.
- 2015 Altshuler, D., V. Hacquard, **T. Roberts**, & A. S. White. On double access, cessation and parentheticality. In S. D'Antonio, C. Little, M. Moroney, & M. Wiegand (eds.), *Proceedings of SALT 25*, 18-37. Ithaca, NY: CLC Publications.
- 2013 Chang, A., D. Nunez, **T. Roberts**, D. Sengeh, & C. Breazeal. Pre-pilot findings on developing a literacy tablet. In *Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Interaction Design and Children*, 471-474. New York, NY: ACM.
- 2012 Chang, A., C. Breazeal, F. Faridi, **T. Roberts**, G. Davenport, H. Lieberman, & N. Montfort. Textual tinkerability: encouraging storytelling behaviors to foster emergent literacy. In *CHI '12 Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 505-520. New York, NY: ACM.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 Roberts, T. The root of it all: Affectedness across lexical categories. In A. Hedding & M. Hoeks (eds.), *Syntax and Semantics at Santa Cruz 4*, 77-96.

Presentations

* = *equal contribution*

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 Roberts, T. Parenthetically-embedded questions. MECORE workshop on approaches to the semantics of clause-embedding predicates: theories, cross-linguistic data, and experimentation, University of Edinburgh, October 22-24. [online]

- 2020 **Roberts, T*** and K. Sasaki*. What embeds exclamatives and why. Words with Friends, Stanford University, November 13. [online]
- 2019 Kroll, M.* & **T. Roberts***. Polarity ellipsis derives bare adverbial responses, and stripping, too. UCSC-Stanford Negation, Polarity, & Ellipsis Workshop, November 2.
- 2018 Roberts, T. I can't believe what's not butter: Deriving distributed factivity. Syntax & Semantics Circle, UC Berkeley, November 5.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- [2022] Hoeks, M.*, J. Pesetsky*, D. Özyıldız*, & **T. Roberts***. Event plurality and quantifier scope across clause boundaries. Semantics & Linguistic Theory (SALT) 32, June 8-10, El Colegio de Mexico & Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.
- 2022 Hoeks, M.*, J. Pesetsky*, D. Özyıldız*, & **T. Roberts***. Event plurality and quantifier scope across clause boundaries. Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW) 45, April 26-29, Queen Mary University of London. [poster]
- 2021 **Roberts, T.*** & K. Sasaki*. Which predicates embed exclamatives and why. Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting, January 7-10. [online]
- 2021 Roberts, T. Argument saturation and intransitive modification: The double life of embedded clauses. Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting, January 7-10. [poster; online]
- 2020 Roberts, T. Argument saturation and the syntactic status of embedded clauses. Brussels Conference on Generative Linguistics 13, December 17-18, KU Leuven. [online]
- 2020 Roberts, T. Argument saturation and intransitive modification: The double life of embedded clauses. North East Linguistics Society (NELS) 51, November 6-8, Université du Québec à Montréal. [online]
- 2019 Roberts, T. I can't believe it's not lexical: Deriving distributed factivity. Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 29, May 15-17, UCLA.
- 2019 Bellik, J. & **T. Roberts**. Verbatim memory for surface features: Evidence from stress shift. CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, March 29-31, University of Colorado, Boulder.
- 2019 Kroll, M.* & **T. Roberts***. Are bare adverbial responses derived by ellipsis? Definitely. Linguistics Society of America (LSA), January 3-6, New York, New York.
- 2018 Kroll, M.* & **T. Roberts***. Stating the obvious: *Of course* as a focus-sensitive marker of uncontroversiality. Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 23, September 5-7, University Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain.
- 2018 Roberts, T. Pragmatic Licensing of Polar Questions in Estonian. Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS) 54, April 26-28.
- 2018 Roberts, T. The syntax of statives across categories. Linguistics Society of America (LSA), January 4-8, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 2017 Roberts, T. Relating form and meaning in negative polar questions. Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary (InqBnB) 2, December 18-19, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- 2017 Roberts, T. The selectional restrictions of responsive predicates in Estonian. Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 22, September 7-10, University of Potsdam/ZAS, Germany.

- 2017 Roberts, T. Responsive Predicates are Question-Embedding: Evidence from Estonian. Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS) 53, May 25-27.
- 2015 Altshuler, D., V. Hacquard, **T. Roberts**, & A. S. White (2015). On double access, cessation and parentheticality. Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 25, Stanford University, California.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 Bellik, J. & **T. Roberts**. Verbatim memory for surface features: Evidence from stress shift. California Annual Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP) 2, University of Southern California, December 1-2.
- 2018 Kroll, M.* & **T. Roberts***. I hold these truths to be self-evident: The semantic and pragmatic contributions of *of course*. California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 11, UC Berkeley, October 28.
- 2018 Roberts, T. Bias in Estonian negative polar questions. Linguistics at Santa Cruz (LASC), UC Santa Cruz, March 10. [Poster]
- 2017 Roberts, T. The semantics of responsive predicates and their complements in Estonian. Linguistics at Santa Cruz (LASC), UC Santa Cruz, March 18.
- 2015 Roberts, T. Thinking about thinking in Estonian. California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics Workshop (CUSP) 8, Stanford University.

Teaching Experience

INSTRUCTOR, UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM:

- 2022 **Semantics & Pragmatics** (Spring, BA Linguistics)
Co-taught with Karolina Krzyżanowska and Jing Lin
- 2021 **Logic and Conversation** (Fall, MSc Logic)
Co-taught with Floris Roelofsen

TEACHING FELLOW (PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR), UCSC, BA LINGUISTICS:

- 2021 **Language OnLine (LOL)** (Summer; online)
Structure of Uralic Languages (Spring; online)
- 2019 **Semantics 1** (Fall)

TEACHING ASSISTANT, UCSC, BA LINGUISTICS:

- 2020 **Semantics 1** (Fall; online)
Instructor: Jake Vincent
Syntax 2 (Spring; online)
Instructor: Ivy Sichel
Semantics 2 (Winter)
Instructor: Jess H.-K. Law

2019	Invented Languages (Spring; online) Instructor: Pranav Anand Semantics 2 (Winter) Instructor: Donka Farkas
2018	Introduction to Linguistics (Spring) Instructor: Pranav Anand Syntax 1 (Winter) Instructor: Jim McCloskey
2017	Pragmatics (Fall) Instructor: Adrian Brasoveanu Language, Society, and Culture (Spring) Instructor: Jim McCloskey Semantics 1 (Winter) Instructor: Donka Farkas
2016	Introduction to Linguistics (Fall) Instructor: Adrian Brasoveanu

Advising

MASTER'S THESES, ADVISOR:

Ongoing	Nathan Malik (Master of Logic, University of Amsterdam) <i>Co-advised with Maria Aloni</i>
---------	---

MASTER'S THESIS, COMMITTEE MEMBER:

2022	Flavia Nährlich (Master of Logic, University of Amsterdam)
------	--

BA THESIS, SUPERVISOR:

Ongoing	Hamin Lee (BA Linguistics, University of Amsterdam) <i>Co-supervised with Milica Denić</i>
---------	---

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS:

2018-2019	Honig Undergraduate Research Assistant Program, UCSC Mentees: Madeleine King & Koy Rugama Project: Memory for prosodic features <i>Co-supervised with Jennifer Bellik</i>
-----------	--

Awards and fellowships

2020	Dissertation Quarter Fellowship, UCSC
2019	Summer Dissertation Fellowship, The Humanities Institute, UCSC
2015-2016	Regents Fellowship, UCSC
2014-2015	Baggett Fellowship, University of Maryland
2014	1st place, S. Klein Prize for Technical Writing, MIT

2010-2014 James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship

Service

JOURNAL REVIEWING

Glossa, Philosophical Quarterly

ABSTRACT REVIEWING

European Summer School on Language, Logic, and Information (ESSLLI) x2

GRANT REVIEWING

2022 National Science Centre of Poland: OPUS Grants

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

2019- Committee on LGBTQ+ Issues in Linguistics (COZIL), Linguistics Society of
America
2015- Organizing & Program Committees, North American Computational Linguistics
Open Competition (NACLO)
2014-2015 NACLO site host, University of Maryland

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT, UC SANTA CRUZ

2019 Coordinator, Graduate Student open house, UCSC
2018-2019 Coordinator, Semantics, Pragmatics, and Language Philosophy (SPLAP) reading
group
2017-2018 Events Committee Chair, UCSC Linguistics
2016-2017 Computer Czar & Editor of the WHASC newsletter, UCSC Linguistics

Computer skills

Languages Python, R, PHP, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, Bash
Packages node.js, NLTK, Stanford Dependency Parser, Twitter API
Programs Praat, Audacity, IbexFarm, OpenSesame

Languages

Native American English
Advanced French
Intermediate Dutch, Estonian, Japanese